

Is Bovine Tuberculosis Given to Man?

Two reasons have been urged for combating tuberculosis in cattle. The veterinarian has urged the necessity of eliminating the disease from infected herds because experience has shown that in the long run such herds will prove unprofitable. The sanitarian and physician have claimed that the disease might be transmitted to man through the milk or meat, and have sought to eliminate the possibility of transfer. The views of both groups of men have been vigorously opposed by many stock farmers and dairymen, who have contended that the transmission of the disease was not proved. The past ten years have been a period of contention, but it may truthfully be said that at present we are in a far better position to judge than ever before. Is there any real danger of man contracting the disease from cattle? Does the same germ cause the disease in both cow and man?

When Dr. Robert Koch, the great German bacteriologist, in 1883 first described the germs of tuberculosis, he regarded those from cattle and from man as being the same, and supposed that the diseases were identical. For many years this was accepted as truth, and elaborate systems of meat and milk inspection were instituted in Europe and America. About 1896 an American bacteriologist, Dr. Theobald Smith caused a little flurry by announcing as a result of careful study that he believed that the bacteria from cattle differed from those from man sufficiently to enable one to tell them apart when they were growing in the laboratory under suitable conditions, and even to see differences under the microscope. The

bovine bacteria he found to be a little shorter and thicker than those from cases of consumption in man. Dr. Koch saw the importance of these statements and carried on a series of experiments and observations. As a result of these in the year 1901 he startled the medical world by declaring that the disease could not be transmitted from man to cattle, and that probably the reverse was also true, that is, man could not be infected from cattle; at any rate, the number of infections from such a source was so small as to be wholly negligible. It may be well to examine his reasons for such conclusions.

In the first place, he was able to demonstrate tubercle bacteria in the milk supplies of several German cities. He asked, why do we have so few cases of tuberculosis in children in which the bowels are affected? Here was ample opportunity for the children to become infected, but statistics failed to reveal that any considerable proportion ever had the disease. He argued further that tuberculosis of the lungs, or consumption, was far more common than diseases of the intestines. Why should this be so if the bacteria infected through the intestinal tract? He also emphasized the fact that the injection of bacteria from human cases into calves, rarely if ever produced the disease. While not proof, this he believed to be good circumstantial evidence pointing to differences between the diseases and confirmed him in the belief that the germs from cattle could not infect man. He completely substantiated Dr. Smith's findings relative to differences in the microscopic appearances of the organisms from the two sources.

It seemed certainly at first sight that he had made out a very strong case. The acceptance of these statements meant a complete re-

Tribune Offers Pope A Square Deal

The Tribune is sorry to report the fact that it has been asked by a great number of people to "keep on roasting Pope." We are sorry that we have been thus misunderstood that it is thought this paper is after the scalp of the superintendent of public instruction. While it is gratifying to see that so many people in Hawaii, as well as the papers on Maui and Kauai, are taking an interest in such rottenness in the school administration as

revolution in ideas relative to the prevention of human tuberculosis. Naturally they were most carefully examined and tested in every way possible. Hundreds of investigators attacked the problem from almost every conceivable point of view. During the last ten years probably as much has been written relative to tuberculosis as concerning all the other bacteria diseases combined. Many theories have been advanced, but it is only recently that the atmosphere has been clarified relative to many vital points. How do the objections raised by Koch to the transmissibility of the disease stand now?

In the first place, it was shown that many of the bacteria that had been reported as tubercle bacteria in the milk supplies of cities were not such in reality, but harmless forms from dust that could not possibly produce disease. There were plenty of cases remaining in which the true tubercle bacillus was demonstrated positively, but the fact remained that the opportunity for infection was not so great as had been supposed. Some doubt was also thrown upon the

Continued next week.

we have pointed out, we wish to repeat that this has not been a campaign primarily to oust Pope. Pope, as we have learned, is not infallible, nor is he always truthful, nor does he obey the rules which he should enforce. But Pope is merely an incident, a detail, he may reform, perhaps. The main thing is to see to it that the present rules are carried out and that such new rules are made as will tend to do away with the injustice and favoritism which is now rife in the department.

In this connection we are indebted to The Herald for a text. That paper says that it "has no sympathy for attacks made upon the Department of Public Instruction for employing malihini teachers, if those attacks are made simply on the ground that they are malihinis and not kamaainas." Passing lightly over the fact that it is but natural for one malihini to defend others, we go on to state that one thing the Tribune does condemn Pope for is for employing these just because they are malihinis.

The Territory is paying big sums annually for the support of a normal school and for the College of Hawaii. Presumably these institutions should turn out teachers with sufficient qualifications to fill the comparatively simple positions in the public school system. If they do provide qualified teachers, such should be given the first chance for the good positions here. The department should send abroad for teachers only where it could find no competent pedagogues in the Islands. The best positions should be filled by promotion, and not by importation, provided always that the local teachers are competent. The normal school has been running for many years, the College of Hawaii has been open for several years. If, particularly the former, these institutions

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cannot supply competent teachers, let us then close them, save the money spent on them and let Pope send to Timbuktoo, if he pleases.

We may add that we sincerely appreciate The Herald's suggestion that Pope be forced to reply to the direct charges made against him. That is all we asked.

To be absolutely fair, the Tribune offers to give Mr. Pope all the space he wants in this paper, and to apologize publicly in case he can prove that we were wrong in saying:

1. That he told an untruth when he said (if correctly reported in the Advertiser) that "supervising principals are not appointed on certificates at all."

2. That he was violating the rules of his department by appointing as supervising principals persons who did not have the qualifications required by the rules.

Can Pope possibly have a fairer show for proving himself right and his critics wrong? But can he do it?

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